

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated March 7, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

In the Office Action, claims 11-17 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraphs for reciting “lifting up the body at a speed slower than a speed of the lowering the body, so that the nozzle is isolated from the substrate” in claim 11. Applicants note that this feature is described in the specification at paragraph [0067]. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-12 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,391,378 to Carr et al in view of U.S. Patent 6,001,203 to Yamada et al., U.S. Patent 6,455,099 to Enchi, and U.S. Patent 5,409,545 to Levey et al. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carr in view of Yamadea, Enchi, Levey, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,139,639 to Kitamura. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carr in view of Yamadea, Enchi, Levey, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,595,819 to Kitahara. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carr in view of Yamadea, Enchi, Levey, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,431,771 to Vinouze.

The rejection of claims 11-17 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 11-17 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “determining an initial value between the nozzle and the substrate by turning on or turning off a contact type switch by lifting up the body when the nozzle contacts the substrate; [and] lifting up the body at a speed slower than a speed of the lowering the body, so that the nozzle is isolated from the substrate”. None of the cited

references including Carr, Yamada, Enchi, Levey, Kitamura, Kitahara, and Vinouze singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 11 of the present invention is different from the Carr, Yamada, and Enchi structures in that none disclose or suggest either “turning on or turning off a contact type switch by lifting up the body when the nozzle contacts the substrate” or “lifting up the body at a speed slower than a speed of the lowering the body, so that the nozzle is isolated from the substrate” as recited in claim 11, for example. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 and claims 12-17, which depend from claim 11, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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